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PTO IDENTIFIER:	Application Number 10/705,400
	Patent Number
Inventor:	Satoshi Mizutani et al.

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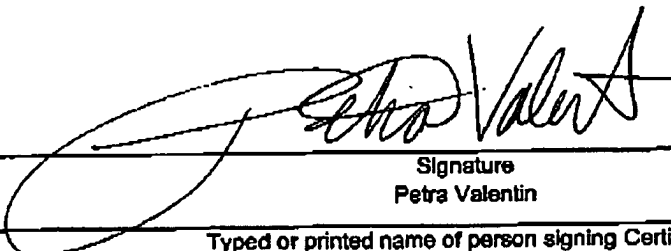
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Response to Restriction Requirement (3 pages)
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Docket No.: 20050/0200478-USO
(PATENT)**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:
Satoshi Mizutani et al.**Application No.: 10/705,400****Confirmation No.: 4410****Filed: November 10, 2003****Art Unit: 3761****For: INTERLABIAL PAD AND PACKAGE
THEREOF**

Examiner: M. M. Kidwell**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT****Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450****Dear Sir:**

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action mailed November 24, 2004, applicant hereby elects: Species 2. Claims 1-3, and 8-10 read on elected Species 2.

Applicants traverse the restriction requirement/election of species as follows:

In the Office Action, Species 2 is alleged to be related to Figs. 4-7. However, Figs. 1(a) and (b) show basically the same embodiment of the invention as shown in Figs. 4 and 5. Fig. 1(a) is a top view of the embodiment and Fig. 1(b) is a cross-sectional view of the same. Fig. 4 is a perspective/cross-sectional view of the embodiment, and Fig. 5 is a collapsed form of Fig. 4. Therefore, Figs. 1(a) and (b) also belong to Species 2.

Applicants submit that claim 1 is a generic claim that includes many of the species.

Claim 1 recites as follows:

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1. An interlabial pad for attaching to labia, comprising:

an absorber for absorbing body fluid;

an absorbing sheet portion facing to a body side upon wearing the interlabial pad; and

a support sheet portion backing the absorbing sheet portion;

wherein said absorbing sheet portion comprises a pair of absorbing sheet bodies which are separated along a substantial center line of the interlabial pad, and said absorbing sheet body is bonded to said support sheet portion comprising an impermeable support sheet on a peripheral edge portion of the interlabial pad, thereby the body fluid can flow into a void which is formed between a garment face side of the absorbing sheet body and the body face side of the support sheet.

Generic claim 1 with the open language, "comprising," reads on Figs. 1 and 4-7 of the present specification. Further, generic claim 1 reads on Figs. 8, 9, 10, 13, and 24 because these figures also show "an absorber," "an absorbing sheet portion," and "a support sheet portion" with all the limitations of these elements as set forth in claim 1. Additional features shown in these figures but not directly claimed in claim 1 are claimed in some of the dependent claims.

Still further, claim 1 reads on Figs. 11, 12, 19, 21, and 22 because these figures show the backside of the support sheet 42 (part of the support sheet portion 44b), which has a mini sheet piece 62 attached thereto. The other elements of the claim 1 are not shown merely because the backside of the support sheet 42 is shown. Claim 1 does not claim a mini sheet but claim 6 depending from claim 1 does. Clearly claim 1 is a generic claim that reads on Figs. 11, 12, 19, 21, and 22.

Additionally, claim 1 also reads on Fig. 23 for the same reason as Figs. 1(a), 6, and 7. Claim 1 reads on Fig. 20 because this figure merely shows an example of how the claimed invention is applied to the body.

In summary, claim 1 reads on Figs. 1, 4-13, and 19-24. Therefore, claim 1 reads on Species 1-7, 9, and 10 and Subspecies 1 and 2.

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Thus, Applicants respectfully request that upon allowance of the generic claim, the remaining species to which the generic claim reads on be considered for patentability.

Dated: December 23, 2004

Respectfully submitted,



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